

Let's Dream Forward

Among the most defining characteristics of our American heritage is that of a people believing in the future. It is this particular belief that gives dreams possibilities to envision opportunities.

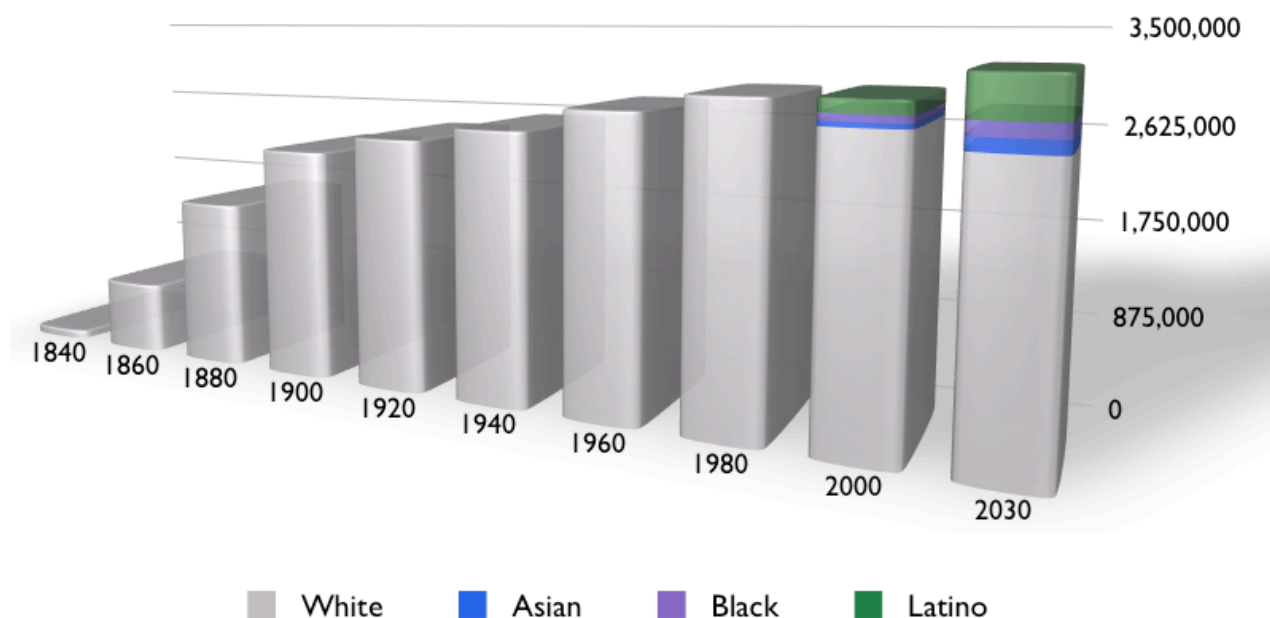
In Iowa, let's peek behind the curtain into the future. What we see is that by the time the current minority high school generation have families of their own, Iowa will be a more diverse society. In 2005, the U.S. census places the Latino population in Iowa at around 109,000, and by the year 2030, this population is estimated to grow to 331,000, making this the largest generational population increase in Iowa history since 1890.

Sadly, today this population is first place in all the wrong places: first in incarceration rates, dropout rates and unemployment lines, last in home ownership, and the list goes on. We can argue the cause, point a finger this way or that, but if this trend continues the current aging majority population will have little to expect in their retirement but frustration from a new growing population with questionable prospects in earning power and contributions to the tax base.

Our generation stands at a historic crossroads - one in which we have the choice to accept or reject a new reality. Standing there, do we have the courage to continue the American tradition to dream forward?

Armando Villareal, Administrator
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Iowa Population Over Twenty Year Periods



Graph prepared by Iowa Division of Latino Affairs